

Tangalle Devananda Maha Thera

The Most Venerable Tangalle Devananda Maha Thera who was the Chief Incumbent of the Mettārāmaya at Bambalapitiya was a pious and virtuous monk of the highest calibre. It was through his zealous efforts and endeavours that Mettārāmaya has reached its present prestigious position. As a result of his efforts we have now come to possess a grand Bodhighara at the premises which is constructed in conformity to classical standards. Everybody can now perform their Bodhi Puja there with great satisfaction.

In addition, we have the beautiful Buddha Shrine Room [Buduge], the Caitya, the Dharmasālā [Preaching Hall], and the two-storied Dānasālā [Refectory]. All these were constructed under the directions and guidance of Venerable Devananda. He has provided, under the directions of the late Tangalle Vedananda Loku Hamuduruvo, a fully complete monastic complex to the Buddhist community.

Venerable Devananda also had a great fascination for chanting pirit [*paritta*] which he did with great devotion and dedication. Every lay patron who came to the monastery had the benefit of a chant and the gift of a *pirit nūla* tied on his hand. It was a regular practice of his to visit the homes of his lay patrons, and bless them with a chanting of pirit if ever there was any case of illness. He also willingly participated in the religious activities of the temples of the neighbourhood.

We can never afford to forget him on account of the many great virtues he possessed. Therefore we have decided to celebrate his birth anniversary every year by having a regular Memorial Dhamma Lecture and have its text printed and published for free distribution.

Arrangements have been made to do this annually. By virtue of the merit

acquired through these activities may the most venerable Tangalle Devananda Maha Thera come to enjoy the bliss of Nirvana.

Nibbāna-paccayo hotu.